

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

IO-10 ACDA-05 PC-01 AID-05 OC-05 CCO-00 SY-05 OPR-02

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O P 011010Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3617

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LIMINTAO

SUBJECT: MPLA MAY HAVE BEGUN ITS OFFENSIVE

CINCLANT AND CINCEUR FOR POLAD

REF: LUANDA 0662

1. RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THE EXTENT AND DEGREE OF THE FIGHTING  
IN THE CUANZA NORTH DISTRICT OF ANGOLA (EAST AND NORTHEAST OF  
LUANDA) IS LACKING BUT BASED ON NUMEROUS SECOND HAND ACCOUNTS AND  
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DISCUSSIONS WITH PORTUGUESE AND FNLA OFFICIALS WE HAVE PUT TO-

GETHER THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT, WHICH WE FEEL IS GENERALLY ACCURATE.

2. BEGINNING ON MAY 28 AND CONTINUING THROUGH UNTIL MAY 30 WIDE SPREAD FIGHTING WAS REPORTED IN A LARGE AREA NORTHEAST AND EAST OF LUANDA. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE ATTACKS WERE BY MPLA AGAINST FNLA. DOZENS OF LOCALITIES WERE EFFECTED. IN CAIXTO, A KEY ROAD JUNCTION 50 MILES NORTH OF LUANDA, DONDO, 120 MILES EAST AND QUIBAXE, 130 MILES NORTH, WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT MPLA HAS FORCED FNLA OUT OF THE TOWNS. THE FIGHTING HAS SO FAR TAKEN PLACE IN AREAS WHERE MPLA'S ETHNIC SUPPORT PREDOMINATES AND WHERE IT HAS LATELY AMASSED LARGE MILITARY FORCES. THIS PARTLY EXPLAINS MPLA'S APPARENT SUCCESS.

3. THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMISSION, UNDER THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, HAS SENT UNITS OF THE INTEGRATED MILITARY FORCES TO MOST OF THE EFFECTED TOWNS IN HOPES OF ARRANGING TRUCES. IN SOME LOCALES THIS HAS PROVED SUCCESSFUL BUT IN DONDO A PORTUGUESE HELICOPTER WAS HIT BY MPLA GROUND FIRE AND WAS UNABLE TO LAND ITS TRUCE TEAM, AND THE BATTLE CONTINUES THERE.

4. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ON MAY 29 LAYING THE ENTIRE BLAME FOR THESE EVENTSON MPLA. HE SAID THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY WOULD CONSIDER EMERGENCY MEANS, INCLUDING THE USE OF AIR POWER, TO PUT AN END TO THE FIGHTING. HE DEMANDED AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE, THE DISMANTLING OF ALL ROADBLOCKS AND THE CONTROL OF THE KEY ROAD-JUNCTION TOWNS OF CAIXITO AND DONDO BY INTEGRATED FORCES. MPLA REPLIED IN A COMMUNIQUE BY ORDERING ITS FORCES TO ACCEPT THE CEASE-FIRE AND COOPERATE WITH THE PORTUGUESE FORCES. FNLA THEN ISSUED ITS COMMUNIQUE ORDERING ITS FORCES NOT TO CONDUCT ANY OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AND TO COORDINATE WITH MPLA AND PORTUGUESE FORCES IN REESTABLISHING ORDER.

5. AS HAPPENED IN THE LAST ROUND OF FIGHTING IN LUANDA IN APRIL, MPLA LOCAL COMMANDERS IGNORED THE CALLS FOR A CEASE-FIRE FROM THEIR LUANDA HQ AND CONTINUED PRESSING THE ATTACKS IN DONDO, SALAZAR, BULA ATUMBA AND QUIBAXE. THIS IS PART OF MPLA'S CHARADE. ONE MUST EITHER BELIEVE THAT MPLA HAS LOST CONTROL OF ITS FORCES OR THAT THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INITIALLY IGNORE ALL CEASE-FIRE APPEALS.

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6. THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE, LOCAL AIR-TAXI COMPANIES AND FLYING CLUBS HAVE BEEN PRESSED INTO SERVICE EVACUATING CIVILIANS FROM THE MORE INACCESSABLE AREAS OF THE FIGHTING. CIVILIAN EVACUATION AIRCRAFT WERE SHOT AT AND FORCED TO CANCEL FLIGHTS FROM BULA ATUMBA AND QUIBAXE. SEVERAL HUNDRED WHITES AND MULATTOES HAVE BEEN EVACUATED FROM THE DEMBOS TO LUANDA BUT HUNDREDS MORE WANT TO LEAVE. THESE MORE REMOTE REGIONS NEVER HAD A SIZEABLE

NON-INDIGENOUS POPULATION AND THE FLIGHTS WILL PROBABLY ACCOUNT FOR THE GREAT BULK OF COFFEE GROWERS AND SMALL TRADERS WHO LIVED IN THE AREA.

7. A SENIOR OFFICIAL IN FNLA ADMITS THAT THEY WERE PUSHED OUT OF CAIXITO, DONDO AND ELSEWHERE BUT HE CLAIMS FNLA NEVER HAD LARGE GARRISONS IN THESE CITIES AND THAT MPLA'S VICTORY IS THEREFORE NOT SIGNIFICANT. WHEN ASKED WHAT FNLA WOULD DO TO RESUPPLY ITS LUANDA GARRISON IF CAIXITO REMAINED IN MPLA'S CONTROL, HE SAID THEY COULD NEVER PERMIT MPLA TO HOLD ONTO THE TOWN AND, UNLESS A PEACEFUL ARRANGEMENT WERE MADE PERMITTING JOINT OCCUPATION OF THE TOWN, FNLA WOULD HAVE TO LAUNCH A MAJOR ASSAULT TO RETAKE IT. HE ARGUED THAT FNLA HAD DELIBERATELY NOT RPT NOT TAKEN THE OFFENSIVE SO THAT MPLA COULD BE SHOWN TO THE ENTIRE WORLD AS THE MOVEMENT THAT IS TRYING TO START A CIVIL WAR. HE BRAGGED THAT WHEN FNLA DECIDED TO MOVE THE WAR WOULD END QUICKLY.

8. THIS ROUND OF FIGHTING DIFFERS FROM PREVIOUS ONES IN THAT IT BROKE OUT SIMULTANEOUSLY IN GEOGRAPHICALLY WIDESPREAD LOCALES. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS IS A PLANNED OFFENSIVE BY MPLA. ITS MINIMUM GOAL IS APPARENTLY TO FORCE FNLA OUT OF MPLA'S ETHNIC AREAS, PERHAPS IN RETALIATION FOR FNLA'S SIMILAR ACTIONS IN ZAIRE DISTRICT ON MAY 3 AND 4. SO FAR MPLA HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN EXPELLING FNLA FROM ALL THE REGION BUT IT HAS HAD SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS AND IT HAS INFLICTED ANOTHER BLACK EYE ON FNLA, WHO HAVE NOW PROVED LACKING IN TWO OF THE LAST THREE ROUNDS.

9. OTHER THAN RESTRICTING THE FLOW OF FOOD INTO LUANDA, THE FIGHTING HAS HAD NO EFFECT HERE. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE ARE NO RPT NO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE DEMBOS BUT THERE ARE SEVERAL IN MALANJE, WHERE FIGHTING HAS BEEN REPORTED.

PORTER

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